



# Handi-NEWS & NOTES



August 2006

## REC ROOM WEBSITE CALENDAR

### Tons of Things To Do This Summer!

Looking for something to do? Go to Milwaukee County's recreation calendar to see great activities being offered by area agencies.



<http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/recreationcalendar>

## HAPPENINGS IN THE PARKS!

### Boerner Botanical Gardens



**Saturday, August 8 & 12**

**Growing Gardeners (Ages 3, 4 & 5): Happy Hummingbirds**

**10:30 am or 1:00 pm - \$15 / \$10 Members**

What tiny little bird that loves nectar is delighted to be at the Gardens? Find flowers it enjoys and see if you can spy a humming bird in the Gardens.

*Dates and topics may change. For more information, to confirm or pre-register, please call 414-525-5675.*

## IDENTITY THEFT

### The Act Of Stealing Your Good Name To Commit Fraud

Identity theft schemes take numerous forms. They may be conducted by e-mail, standard mail, telephone or fax. Thieves may also go through trash looking for discarded tax returns, bank records, credit card receipts or other records that contain personal and financial information

#### Steps to help guard against identity theft:

- Don't carry your Social Security Number (SSN); leave it in a secure place.
- Only give your SSN when absolutely necessary.
- Your employer and financial institution may need your SSN for wage and tax reporting purposes. Don't give a business your SSN just because they ask for it. Find out why before giving it out. Ask if other types of identifiers can be used.
- Order a copy of your credit report from the three credit reporting agencies every year. Make sure

each report is accurate and includes only those activities you have authorized.

- Make sure charge receipts, copies of credit applications, insurance forms, bank checks and statements, expired charge cards, and credit offers you get in mail are disposed of appropriately.
- Minimize your identification information and the number of credit cards carried to what you actually need.

If your Identification or credit cards are lost or stolen, notify the creditors by phone immediately, and call the credit bureaus to ask that a fraud alert be placed in your file.

***Identity theft usually causes immediate financial losses for the victims, who may also encounter lingering credit and other problems as a result of the identity theft.***

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is the central government clearinghouse for identity theft. The sites below provide more information.

[www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft) or 1-877-ID THEFT  
[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) (keyword search: identity theft)

If you have any further questions regarding this very important subject, please contact Mark K. Laing, IRS Tax Specialist, at (414) 231-2149 or e-mail him at [Mark.K.Laing@irs.gov](mailto:Mark.K.Laing@irs.gov).

## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services is seeking representation from people with disabilities to serve on the statewide Assistive Technology (AT) Advisory Board. Representatives should be experienced in using assistive technology. The AT Advisory Board will provide feedback and advise to the Department on the operation of 3WisTech, Wisconsin's assistive technology program.

Interested consumers should contact Holly Laux O'Higgins by Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 608-266-8905 or [lauxhm@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:lauxhm@dhfs.state.wi.us).

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Telephone: 414-278-3932 (VOICE); 414-278-3937 (TDD); 414-278-3939 (FAX)

COURTHOUSE, 901 N. 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET, ROOM 307-B • MILWAUKEE, WI 53233

[technikowski@milwcnty.com](mailto:technikowski@milwcnty.com) [www.milwaukee.gov](http://www.milwaukee.gov)





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August 2006

## SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATES

By Karyl Richson  
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Milwaukee

### THREE BIG MYTHS ABOUT THE SSI PROGRAM

Sometimes people are surprised to find that things they have thought for years were true are actually false. Over the years I have found that this is often the case with the Supplemental Security Income program, or SSI. The following are what I consider the big three myths about the SSI program – together with the actual truths about these myths.

#### **Myth: You have to be virtually homeless and destitute to qualify for SSI.**

You have to be aged, blind or disabled to qualify for SSI – and you also must have little or no income or resources. But you certainly do not have to be homeless or destitute because not everything you earn is counted as income and not everything you own is counted as a resource.

For example, income includes money received from wages and pensions, and also such things as food and shelter. The amount of income you can receive each month and still be eligible for SSI depends partly on where you live. You can call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to find out the income limits in your state.

As to resources, you can own a home and car and burial plots and still get benefits. However, other resources, such as real estate, bank accounts, cash, stocks and bonds, cannot be worth more than \$2,000 if you are unmarried, or \$3,000 if you are married.

#### **Myth: You can get Social Security benefits or SSI benefits, but you cannot get both.**

Actually, some people can get both. As of April 2006, just over 2.5 million people were receiving both Social Security and SSI benefit payments.

We count your monthly Social Security benefit as income when we determine your eligibility for SSI, but you can still qualify for SSI as long as you meet the overall income and resource limits. For example, suppose Joan Jones receives a monthly Social Security benefit of \$300 and has no other income. The SSI Federal benefit rate is \$603, and the first \$20 of income is not counted. So Ms. Jones would be entitled to an SSI benefit of \$323 per month in addition to her Social Security.

You can get more information about SSI income and resource limits, and about qualifying for both Social Security and SSI, by visiting our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or by calling us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and asking for a copy of the pamphlet, *Supplemental Security Income*.

#### **Myth: If you get SSI disability benefit payments, your SSI payments will stop if you try to go back to work.**

If you are getting SSI disability payments and want to work, special rules may help you. You may be able to keep getting SSI payments while you work. As you earn more money, your SSI payments may be reduced or stopped, but you may be able to keep your Medicaid coverage. You also may be able to set aside some money for a work goal or to go to school. In this case, the money you set aside will not reduce the amount of your SSI. Blind or disabled people who apply for SSI may get free special services to help them work. These services may include counseling, job training and help in finding work.

You can get more information by visiting our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or calling us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to get a copy of *Working While Disabled—How We Can Help*.

For more information about the SSI program, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for a copy of the pamphlet, *Supplemental Security Income*.

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## VOTE Mark Ryan

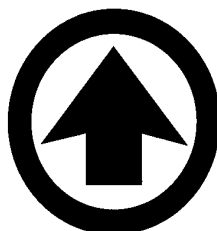
Milwaukee County Clerk

September 12, 2006

November 7, 2006

Authorized and paid for by Friends of Mark Ryan, Harriet Ryan, Treasurer

**Straight to the Gate  
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featuring MCTS service  
to summer festivals.  
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your copy or visit us  
on line at  
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TECHNOLOGIES**

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1712 Paramount Court • Waukesha



- \* Indoor Games of Skill
- \* Batting Cages
- \* Birthday Parties
- \* Special Events
- \* Patio - Picnic Area

## ADVENTURE MINI-GOLF

**12 Holes Wheelchair Accessible**



**281-2815**

**5401 W. Layton Avenue  
Greenfield, Wisconsin**



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get yourself a  
**HOT TICKET**  
in 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>AUG</b>		1 COL 8:05	2 COL 8:05	3	4 STL 7:10	5 STL 6:15
6 STL 1:15	7	8 CHC 7:05	9 CHC 7:05	10 CHC 1:05	11 ATL 8:35	12 ATL 6:05
13 ATL 12:05	14 PIT 6:05	15 PIT 6:05	16 PIT 11:35	17 HOU 7:05	18 HOU 7:05	19 HOU 6:05
20 HOU 1:05	21	22 COL 7:05	23 COL 7:05	24 COL 1:05	25 FLA 6:35	26 FLA 5:05
27 FLA 12:05	28 FLA 6:05	29 HOU 7:05	30 HOU 7:05	31 HOU 7:05		

## August Promotions

### 8 - Tuesday Valvoline Instant Oil Change Special Coupon

The first 20,000 fans 18 and older will receive a special coupon offer from Valvoline.

### 10 - Thursday West Bend Mutual Insurance Brewers Water Bottle

The first 15,000 fans will receive a Brewers water bottle.

### 18-20 - Friday thru Sunday Northwestern Mutual Brewers Drive For Charity

Please drop off school supplies at Miller Park from gate opening to 2nd inning during the Brewers Drive For Charity.

### 18 - Friday Valvoline Instant Oil Change Special Coupon

The first 20,000 fans 18 and older will receive a special coupon offer from Valvoline.

### 19 - Saturday Wishbone Brewers Kids Lunch Box

The first 10,000 fans 16 and under will receive a Brewers lunch box.

### 20 - Sunday Sentry Foods Bill Hall Kids Mini Bobble

The first 10,000 fans 16 and under will receive a Bill Hall Mini Bobble Doll.

### 24 - Thursday Kids & Senior Citizens Discount Day

Kids 14 and under and seniors 60 and over receive substantial discounts. Subject to availability.



To order tickets, or for more information,  
contact the Ticket Office at the  
Milwaukee Brewers at (414) 902-4000 or  
[www.milwaukeebrewers.com](http://www.milwaukeebrewers.com)



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

One and two bedroom apartments.  
Special features for individuals with mobility  
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Professionally managed.

Call St. Clare Management at  
414-643-6501 (v) for an application.



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**Todd Kiefer**  
Operations Manager

1525 N. 4th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(5 blocks north of the Bradley Center)

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Accessories and  
Conversions



264-2000



Quality Conversions at Reasonable Prices

**Mobility  
Unlimited**

Hand Controls  
Adaptive  
Conversions

264-3900

## Waukesha Easy Maintenance Home For Sale

Lannon stone ranch located in the Town of Waukesha. Close to public transportation & the Waukesha Training Center. Extra-wide hallway and bathroom for w/c accessibility & entrance to home can easily support a short, low-sloped wheelchair ramp. 3 bedroom, 1 large bath. Huge living room and nice sized kitchen. 2 car garage. Fenced back yard with campfire pit. Hardwood floors throughout, except kitchen has laminate flooring. Upper level washer & dryer. Well & septic. 2005 taxes were \$2419.

Call Joanne @ 262-547-5517, days or 262-524-8017, evenings

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<b>VAN FOR SALE</b>  1998 Dodge Dakota Pickup, V8, Auto w/ hand controls. Color black. Auto start & alarm. Bucket seats, new tires, exhaust, brakes and more! 137,600 Miles. Asking \$5,500.  Call <b>262-681-1793</b>	<b>VAN FOR SALE</b>  1993 Dodge Caravan, new tires, chair/scooter lift, hand controls. \$1,250.  Call @ <b>262-797-9624</b>	<b>WHEELCHAIR ELEVATOR FOR SALE</b>  Gently used vertical w/c elevator. Excellent condition. Runs on household current, max weight limit 550lbs. lifts up to approx. 6 ft. paid over \$5,000 in 1999 asking \$1,900 or best offer.  Contact <b>(262) 514-4641</b>	<b>WANTED!</b> <b>Motorized Treadmill w/ Side Handrails</b>  Do you have an old motorized treadmill with side handrails in your basement or garage collecting dust? Well don't let it go to waste - call me. I have a need for one.  Call <b>414-313-9388</b>
<b>VAN SEAT FOR SALE</b>  6 way power seat for a van. Came out of a Dodge Grand Caravan. \$300 OBO.  Call Dale @ 715-267-6989 or <a href="mailto:dale@sunsetpinesresort.com">dale@sunsetpinesresort.com</a>	<b>AIR BED FOR SALE</b>  Power Pro Elite with Low Air Loss 9500 full size alternating air bed. Like new - \$800.  Call Dale @ 715-267-6989 or <a href="mailto:dale@sunsetpinesresort.com">dale@sunsetpinesresort.com</a>		

## ACCESSIBILITY

**HOME MEDICAL & REHAB EQUIPMENT**

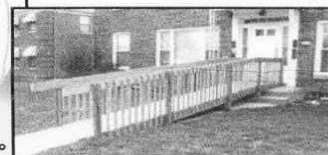
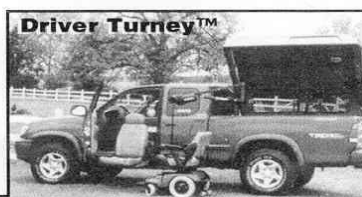
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- SCOOTERS
- LIFT CHAIRS
- WHEELED WALKERS
- STAIR LIFTS
- PORTABLE RAMPS
- VEHICLE LIFTS
- MOBILITY ACCESSORIES



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& MEDICAID  
ACCEPTED**



**MILWAUKEE**

**414 543-1114**  
4404 W. Oklahoma Ave.

**GLENDALE**

**414 906-0000**  
6260 N. Port Washington Rd.

**CUDAHY**

**414 486-6249**  
1995 E. Norse Ave.

Call For Saturday Hours

**1 800 454-3828**

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## JUST STAY HOME!

Let us help you find the right programs and services to keep you there comfortably!

Call  
**ElderLin K**

Information and Assistance for Older Adults  
24 Hours a Day  
**289-6874**

**289-8591 (TTD)**



Milwaukee County Department on Aging  
235 West Galena Street, Suite 180  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212



## For the Disabled Vacationer

Three fully accessible and furnished cabins designed for the disabled to enjoy.

Wooded trails, 4.5 acre stocked private lake, beach, fireplace, wildlife, fishing, campfires, TV/DVD/VCR, Hoyer lifts, kitchenettes, pontoon, wheel-in showers, air conditioned and heated year-round, along with peaceful sunsets and tranquil surroundings await you and your family in a truly accessible Wisconsin resort setting.

[www.sunsetpinesresort.com](http://www.sunsetpinesresort.com) or 1-715-267-6989

**Financial Assistance available**

With a **Lodging Assistance Scholarship** through Rock Creek Disabled Outdoors, Inc., any qualifying customer can stay at Sunset Pines Resort for a **very reduced** price.

Visit - [www.sunsetpinesresort.com/rcdo](http://www.sunsetpinesresort.com/rcdo)  
about this very unique program.



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Take charge of your career with business options that mesh with the lifestyle you desire. For over two decades, The Entrepreneur's Source has helped countless people, from all walks of life, achieve personal and financial freedom and success.

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[TheESource.com/SFliess](http://TheESource.com/SFliess)

Waukesha Location  
262-784-7570  
[TheESource.com/KMaegli](http://TheESource.com/KMaegli)

## Are you.....



*"Your success is our only business"*

- A part of 75% of the adult population that has a dream of being self sufficient?
- Concerned about the next job layoff?
- In an occupation earmarked for outsourcing?
- Someone who wants to own your own business but doesn't know where to begin?
- Willing to learn about your self employment and business ownership options?

**Contact us for a no obligation, no cost consultation.**



Milwaukee Office  
Sharon Fliess  
414-967-1340  
[TheESource.com/SFliess](http://TheESource.com/SFliess)



Waukesha Office  
Kris Maegli  
262-784-7570  
[TheESource.com/KMaegli](http://TheESource.com/KMaegli)

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# Do You Use Assistive Technology?

## We need you!

**WHY:** The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services is seeking people who use assistive technology to participate as members of the Wisconsin Assistive Technology (AT) Advisory Council.

**WHAT:** The AT Advisory Council will provide ongoing advice and direction to the Department on the WisTech program.

**WHO:** We are seeking consumers who:

- use assistive technology. For those consumers unable to represent themselves, this includes family members or guardians.
- are willing to and interested in providing a guiding voice for the availability and provision of AT services across the state.
- are willing and able to participate in four meetings a year via telephone or in-person.

Consumer members:

- receive reimbursement for lodging, meal and mileage expenses.
- serve two- or three-year terms.
- provide a voice for consumer direction of AT services to people with disabilities.

**Application materials can be found online at:**  
<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/index.htm>

**All applicants must submit a consumer interest form and a resume**

**DEADLINE: Friday, August 4, 2006**

**CONTACT:** Holly Laux O'Higgins  
(608) 266-8905  
lauxhm@dhfs.state.wi.us

## Consumer Interest Form for Membership on the Assistive Technology Advisory Council

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State WI Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are you a person who uses assistive technology? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Are you a person representing a person who uses assistive technology who is not able to represent him/herself? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Please list briefly some of the assistive technology you use:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. With this form please include:
  - A copy of your resume
  - A short narrative describing your relevant work and life history with regard to assistive technology (please limit to one page)
  - Your participation on other Councils or Boards either currently or in the past

Return this form to (regular mail or email):

WisTech  
AT Council Recruitment  
1 West Wilson, Room 1151  
Madison, WI 53707-7851  
[lauxhm@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:lauxhm@dhfs.state.wi.us)

\*If you need to submit materials orally, please contact Holly O'Higgins at 608 266 8905.



# WISCONSIN ACADEMY FOR GRADUATE SERVICE DOGS (WAGS), INC.

## Seeking Full Time Executive Director

An exciting opportunity to be part of this established nonprofit agency located in Madison! The WAGS mission is increasing functional independence and quality of life for individuals with physical disabilities through partnership with a highly trained service dog. For additional information about WAGS, Inc. visit our website at [www.wags.net](http://www.wags.net).



The Executive Director will possess managerial, budgeting, fundraising and public relations experience. Must have a working knowledge of dogs, but service dog training experience not required.

Send resume to Sarah Orsted Hartwig, Executive Director, by August 11<sup>th</sup>:

Email: [info@wags.net](mailto:info@wags.net)

Fax: 608-250-9247 (please phone same number before faxing)

Mail: WAGS  
1338 Dewey Court  
Madison, WI 53703